

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3332

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 5395

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNGA, EGEN

SUBJECT: 30TH UNGA - SECOND COMMITTEE: ITEM 58 - OPERATIONAL
ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

SUMMARY: THE SECOND COMMITTEE HEARD STATEMENTS P.M. 24
OCTOBER BY THE EXECUTIVE HEADS OF UNDP, UNICEF, THE OFFICE
OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION, UNFPA, AND THE UNITED NATIONS
VOLUNTEERS (UNV) PROGRAMME AS IT BEGAN CONSIDERATION OF
ITS AGENDA ITEM ON OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT.
THE REPRESENTATIVE OF CHINA STRONGLY CRITICIZED THE USSR
AND ALSO CRITICIZED THE OTHER SUPER POWER. THE SOVIET
UNION SPOKE IN EXERCISE OF THEIR RIGHT OF REPLY. END OF
SUMMARY.

1. UNDER THIS ITEM, THE SECOND COMMITTEE IN ADDITION TO
REVIEWING ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY VARIOUS UNITED NATIONS
BODIES CONCERNED WITH DEVELOPMENT WILL:

A) CONSIDER A RECOMMENDATION BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
AND BY THE ECOSOC THAT THE UNV PROGRAMMED BE DESIGNATED AS THE
PRINCIPAL OPERATIONAL UNIT OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR THE
EXECUTION OF YOUTH PROGRAMMES.

B) REVIEW AN ECOSOC RECOMMENDATION THAT THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY AUTHORIZE A UNFPA PLEDGING CONFERENCE IN 1976

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AS RECOMMENDED BY THE UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL.

C) CONSIDER A DRAFT RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE RECONSTITUTION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE OF THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME AS THE COMMITTEE ON FOOD AID POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES, IN IMPLEMENTATION OF PARAGRAPH 6 OF RESOLUTION XXII OF THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE.

2. STATEMENTS: RUDOLPH PETERSON, ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNDP SAID THAT GLOBAL ECONOMIC IMBALANCES, INVOLVING NOT TWO OR THREE BUT SCORES OF NATION-STATES, HAD EXPOSED A WHOLE RANGE OF DISPUTES THAT WERE BELOW THE SURFACE 30 YEARS AGO. HOWEVER, THE RESULTS OF THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION PROMPTED THE HOPE THAT THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM HAD THE CAPACITY TO ADJUST TO, AND TO MAKE POSSIBLE, NEGOTIATION OF THOSE DISPUTES. HE SAID THERE WAS ONE CLEAR MESSAGE OUT OF THE SIXTH AND SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY--AND OF SEVERAL EMINENT SPECIAL REPORTS IN THE SAME PERIOD: THAT THE WORLD AS A WHOLE WANTED THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM TO BE THE CENTRE PIECE NOT ONLY FOR NEGOTIATION OF WORLD ECONOMIC ISSUES, BUT FOR OPERATIONAL ADVANCE TOWARDS A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER. UNDP, IN EXERCISING TEAM LEADERSHIP IN THAT RESPECT, HAD INCREASED ITS PROGRAMME OF STAFF TRAINING, DELEGATED AUTHORITY TO ITS REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES, AND STRENGTHENED ITS FIELD OFFICES. UNDP HAD IDENTIFIED MANY IMPROVEMENTS THAT COULD BE MADE IN ITS TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROCESSES AND HAD INCORPORATED INTO ITS GUIDELINES AN ANALYSIS OF THE RESULT-ORIENTED APPROACH THAT THE ART OF GOOD DEVELOPMENT WAS NOW SEEN TO REQUIRE. HE OBSERVED THAT THE PURSUIT OF THE GOAL OF INTEGRATION OF RESOURCES IN THE COUNTRY PROGRAMMING PROCESS HAD NOT TO DATE BEEN AS SUCCESSFUL AS THE TEAM LEADERSHIP OVER UNDP'S OWN RESOURCES. HOWEVER, HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY RECENT INDICATIONS.

3. TURNING TO RESTRUCTURING OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM, PETERSON CRITICIZED THE CONTINUING PROLIFERATION OF NEW FUNDS AND PROGRAMMING UNITS SAYING SUCH A PROLIFERATION OFTEN CAUSED CRITICISM AND QUESTIONS ABOUT THE "PLETHORA OF UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES AND COMMITTEES" AND THE "COMPLICATED BUREAUCRACIES." HOWEVER, IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR UNDP TO ANSWER THOSE QUESTIONS BECAUSE UNCLASSIFIED

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THE ORIGINAL DECISIONS AS TO THE NUMBER OF FUNDS AND UNITS IN THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM LAY PRIMARILY WITH GOVERNMENTS.

4. HENRY LABOUISSSE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNICEF SAID AN ALARMING DETERMINATION WAS TAKING PLACE IN THE SITUATION OF CHILDREN IN MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THERE WAS AT THE SAME TIME A GROWING CONSENSUS THAT DIRECT AND

IMMEDIATE ACTION TO RELIEVE THE TERRIBLE CONDITIONS OF POVERTY IN WHICH MANY CHILDREN LIVED MUST MOVE CLOSER TO CENTER STAGE. THE DETERIORATING SITUATION IN THE "MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED" COUNTRIES AND IN AREAS SUCH AS THE SAHEL, STRUCK BY NATURAL DISASTERS CONSTITUTED AN AGGRAVATION OF THE "QUIET EMERGENCY". UNICEF ENVISIONED SERVICES AS "RELATIVELY SIMPLE, LOW-COST AND INTENDED TO CATER TO THE BASIC NEEDS OF A COMMUNITY". THEY COULD BE DELIVERED ECONOMICALLY AT THE VILLAGE LEVEL THROUGH RESIDENT VOLUNTEERS. IN PRACTICAL TERMS, HE SAID, THE GOVERNMENTS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SHOULD MAKE A FIRM COMMITMENT TO THOSE ESSENTIAL SERVICES, AT THE TOP LEVEL AND WITH ACTIVE ENCOURAGEMENT OF LOCAL-LEVEL PARTICIPATION. BETTER-OFF COUNTRIES, HE CONTINUED, SHOULD COMMIT THEMSELVES TO A SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE FOR THOSE SERVICES. LABOUISSIE WENT ON TO SAY THAT UNICEF WAS HEARTENED BY THE DIRECTIVE GIVEN TO IT AND TO WHO BY A RESOLUTION OF THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION, TO INTENSIFY EFFORTS IN THE HEALTH FIELD. UNICEF REGARDED THAT AS A DIRECT RESPONSE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD'S ACTION IN APPEALING TO THE SESSION TO GIVEN ATTENTION TO THE DETERIORATING SITUATION OF CHILDREN. THERE WAS, HE SAID, GENERAL SUPPORT FOR THE VIEW THAT UNICEF SHOULD PREPARE ITSELF TO BE CAPABLE OF HANDLING SOMETHING OVER \$200 MILLION IN ASSISTANCE DURING 1976. THAT COULD BE DIVIDED BETWEEN REGULAR PROGRAMMES (\$120-\$140 MILLION) AND SPECIAL ASSISTANCE (\$50-\$70). HE DID NOT MENTION VIETNAM, LAOS OR CAMBODIA AT ANY TIME.

5. ISSOUFOU DJERMAKOYE, COMMISSIONER FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION, SAID THE RESOLUTION OF THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION ON DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION HAD POINTED OUT THE AREAS IN WHICH OTC SHOULD DIRECT ITS UNCLASSIFIED

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EFFORTS. PLACING THE OFFICE'S ACTIVITIES INTO TWO PRINCIPAL CATEGORIES, HE SAID THE FIRST INCLUDED ACTION TO STRENGTHEN INSTITUTIONS AND MECHANISMS WORKING FOR DEVELOPMENT AS, FOR EXAMPLE, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PLANNING PROJECTS. THE SECOND MAIN CATEGORY, WAS THAT

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

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DEALING WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND NATIONAL RESOURCES. HE ILLUSTRATED THAT TYPE OF WORK BY MENTIONING ON-GOING PROJECTS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE WORLD INCLUDING PAKISTAN, SYRIA, WEST AFRICA AND THE MEKONG RIVER. THE SOVIET UNION, FOR INSTANCE, WAS SUPPLYING LARGE QUANTITIES OF HYDRAULIC MATERIAL FOR PROJECT STO IMPROVE THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF NOMADS IN SOUTHERN YEMEN AND SOMALILAND. HE REPORTED, TOO, THAT TECHNICAL COOPERATION WITH CHINA HAD MADE A PROMISING START. THUS, A MAP PROJECT IN LAOS AND A SEARCH FOR UNDERGROUND WATER IN SRI LANKA HAD BEGUN WITH EXPERTS AND FUNDS PLACED AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS BY CHINA. HE ALSO NOTED THE PREPARATORY WORK NOW UNDERWAY FOR THE 1977 UNITED NATIONS WATER CONFERENCE. FOR ITS PART OTC PROPOSED THAT, IN THE USE OF ITS RESOURCES, PRIORITY BE GIVEN TO CARRYING OUT THE RESOLUTIO OF THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION. THOSE RESOURCES WERE LIMITED--ONLY \$5.5 MILLION A YEAR--BUT COULD GIVE IMPETUS TO TWO TYPES OF ACTION: PILOT PROJECTS AND SHORT-TERM ADVISORY SERVICES AT A HIGH LEVEL.

6. RAFAEL SALAS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNFPA,ISAID THAT A TOTAL OF SOME \$239MILLION HAD BEEN PLEDGED TO UNFPA TO DATE BY 78 COUNTRIES, WITH PLEDGES FOR 1975 UNCLASSIFIED

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RUNNING ABOUT 18.5 PERCENT AHEAD OF 1974. IN ADDITION, THERE HAD BEEN A PRONOUNCED IMPROVEMENT IN THE RATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF UNFPA PROJECTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, FROM A RATE OF 74 PERCENT IN 1973 TO 81 PERCENT IN 1974,

HE SAID. THERE HAD ALSO BEEN AN INCREASE BY 70 PERCENT--FROM \$7 MILLION IN 1973 TO \$12 MILLION IN 1974--OF THE UNFPA-SUPPORTED PROJECTS WHICH GOVERNMENTS THEMSELVES WERE EXECUTING. UNFPA WAS EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITIES OF COOPERATIVE FINANCING WITH OTHER DONORS AND WAS REVIEWING ITS PROGRAMME WITH MANY NON-TRADITIONAL DONORS, INCLUDING OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES, HE STATED. TURING TO THE PROBLEMS FACED BY THE FUND, MR. SALAS SAID THAT DESPITE THE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN CONTRIBUTIONS, THE REQUEST FROM GOVERNMENT OUTSTRIPPED RESOURCES. THUS IT BECAME NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH OPERATING PRIORITIES WHICH WAS INHERENTLY DIFFICULT ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF THE BROADENED MANDATE GIVEN UNFPA BY THE PLAN OF ACTION OF THE ROLE POPULATION CONFERENCE. MEETINGS HELD SINCE THEN HAD NOT ESTABLISHED ANY CLEAR ORDER OF GLOBAL PRIORITIES. RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, HOWEVER, REQUIRED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF GLOBAL PRIORITIES AND UNFPA WAS STRIVING TO THAT END.

7. MR. GORDON, CO-ORDINATOR OF THE UNV PROGRAMME, TOLD THE COMMITTEE THAT THE NUMBER OF UNV VOLUNTEERS IN THE FIELD HAD INCREASED CONSIDERABLY, AND THE PROPORTION OF VOLUNTEERS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FROM 38 PERCENT TO 44 PERCENT AND ITS CONCENTRATION IN THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FROM 39 PERCENT TO 55 PERCENT. AS TO THE ROLE OF UNV IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF YOUTH PROJECTS, UNV WAS NOW IN NEGOTIATION ON A NUMBER OF PILOT PROJECTS. IN LATIN AMERICA IT WAS NEGOTIATING A PROJECT TO STRENGTHEN LOCAL VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS, UNV WAS FOLLOWING UP A SAND-DUNE STABILIZATION PROJECT WHICH HAD BEGUN EARLIER THIS YEAR IN IRAN WITH INDICATIONS A PILOT PROJECT INVOLVING YOUTH PEOPLE IN A NUMBER OF SAHELIAN COUNTRIES WOULD RESULT.

8. CHINA SAID THE POLICIES AND REGULATIONS OF UNDP AND OTHER UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS FOR MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE HAD BEEN FORMULATED UNDER THE CONDITIONS OF UNCLASSIFIED

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THE PAST. THOSE CONDITIONS HAD NOW GREATLY CHANGED AND THEREFORE IT WAS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT A FUNDAMENTAL REFORM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE DECLARATION AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER AND OF THE CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES. THERE WERE TWO ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE REFORM OF THE UNITED NATIONS MULTILATERAL AID SYSTEM, HE SAID. ONE WAS FOR RESOLUTELY BREAKING THE OLD LIMITATIONS AND COMPLETELY REFORMING THE "UNREASONABLE" POLICIES AND REGULATIONS. THE OTHER WAS FOR DOING SOMENON-SUBSTANTIVE

PATCHWORK WITHIN THE OLD FRAMEWORK. THE CONTENTION BETWEEN THE SUPER-POWERS WAS ALSO REFLECTED IN THE UNITED NATIONS OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT. ONE SUPER-POWER WAS TRYING TO MAINTAIN ITS MONOPOLY BY OPPOSING ANY FUNDAMENTAL REFORM, AND THE OTHER WAS ENGAGED IN USING UNITED NATIONS FORUMS ON QUESTIONS OF DEVELOPMENT TO TRUMPET THE SO-CALLED DETENTE AND SO-CALLED LINKAGE BETWEEN DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN ORDER TO MAKE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENTAL ACTIVITIES SERVE ITS ULTERIOR PURPOSES. IT WAS CHINA'S DUTY TO EXPOSE THIS SHAM. ANYONE WHO TRIED TO MUZZLE CHINA WOULD FAIL.

9. SPEAKING IN THE RIGHT OF REPLY, THE SOVIET UNION REPEATED, IN BRIEFER FORM, WHAT IT HAD SAID UNDER THE TCDC DEBATE LAST WEEK (SEE USUN 5112) NAMELY THAT CHINA'S INSINUATIONS AND SLANDER WERE USED TO CONCEAL ITS IMPOTENCY ON MATTERS WHICH WERE BEING DISCUSSED IN THE UNITED NATIONS.
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